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## The Global Strategists

Civilian Newport joined with the Navy in welcoming the several hundred participants in the Global Strategy Discussions, who came to Newport for the 15th session of this important segment of the Naval War College's annual program.

It is a diversified group that comes here each year to absorb the contemporary thinking of leaders in the government on the subject global strategy from the point of view of the United States. It is natural that retired flag and general officers should join senior reserve officers and the War College staff and students for these important talks.

But the presence of scores of civilians from all over the country who stand high in their businesses and professions provides for the introduction of thinking on national strategies quite apart from the thinking of the military mind.

Global strategy commitments are not limited to study by the military. This was demonstrated on the opening day when high officials of two important civilian agencies in Washington, the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency, addressed the conferees.

The assignment of influential civilians from all over the country takes the scope of these discussions out of the pure realm of the military. As Vice Admiral Bernard L. Austin, Naval War College president, said in opening the session, "We should become more fully aware of the part each of us plays or should play in the great drama of this era."

The importance of the proceedings to the civilians can well be understood. The military members, active and retired, regular and reserve, retain what they absorbed on global strategy within their relatively small groups. But the civilians return to their regular and different way of life, prepared to spread the word they have learned about current national and international strategy to their broad circles.

These civilian participants are truly the key people in the discussions. They can be influential in their home communities and beyond them in making their non-military contemporaries more aware, to quote Admiral Austin, of the part each of us plays or should play in the great drama of this era.